

**John Ashby to Henry Vanmeter and Thomas Waggener, April 15, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN JOHN ASHBY. <sup>1</sup>**

Aprl. 15th 1756

An Extract of Capt. Ashbys Letter/

SIR/

this day my fort was Demanded of me by four hundred Indians and we came to a party, I told the interpreter that I would not give up my fort untill I was killed and all my men, they first told me to make ready, I told them I was Ready, any time to give Battle & I would give them Battle They also told me that there was two thousand gone to Juniata and fifteen hundred to Cumberland fort, and four hundred to attact me, and also four hundred to attact the upper fort Cocks and that their order was not to kill but to take all to Allegheny, I told them that I was but a Captain & I cold not give it up, nor would not, but I would send to our great man, and he might do as he pleased & they Agreed that I should send an Express<sup>2</sup>  
... Test by —

JOHN ASHBY

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I give him a dram and so Departed without one fire of a gun & in the Evening I heard them  
attact the fort at the mouth of the Creek and a number of guns fired but what is done I  
know not.<sup>3</sup> I believe Every word that they told me was a lie, I seen a vast number but not  
four hundred.Sir

I am Your most Humble Servt. to command JOHN ASHBY

To Colll. HENRY VANMETER and so to Capt. WAGGONER these

1 Son of Edward, and gradson of Edmund Ashby, born, 1707, died, 1797. Married Catherine Huffman, 1781.  
Captain Ashby was the bearer of Washington's dispatches containing the news of Braddock's defeat from  
Winchester to Williamsburg, and became a Colonel during the War for Independence.

2 "Ashby's letter is a very extraordinary one. The design of the Indians was only, in my opinion, to intimidate him  
into a surrender."—Washington to Dinwiddie, April 22, 2756.

3 "A small fort, which we have at the mouth of Patterson's Creek, containing an officer and thirty men guarding  
stores, was attacked smartly by the French and Indians; they were as warmly received, upon which they  
retired."—Washington to Dinwiddie, April 33, 1756.